

IN THE CLAIMS

1       1. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing a particle from a surface of a  
2       metal plug formed in a via comprising:  
3              introducing a first agent to a metal layer;  
4              polishing the metal layer with the first agent;  
5              after polishing the metal layer, introducing a second agent comprising hydrogen  
6       peroxide to rinse the surface of the metal plug; and  
7       removing at least one particle from the surface of the metal plug.

1       9. (Three Times Amended) A method of removing at least one particle from a  
2       surface of a metal plug disposed over a substrate comprising:  
3              depositing a slurry onto a metal layer over the metal plug;  
4              polishing the metal layer; and  
5              after polishing the metal layer, rinsing the surface of the metal plug with a  
6       solution comprising hydrogen peroxide.

1       18. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:  
2              polishing a metal layer over a conductive plug with a slurry;  
3              after polishing the metal layer, introducing a rinsing solution onto the conductive  
4       plug, the rinsing solution comprises <sup>comprising</sup> hydrogen peroxide.

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